

**In the Claims:**

1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~reserving network resources within~~ operating an IP network, ~~wherein the resources are reserved by a resource manager for an application or a group of applications within a time interval defined by a start-time and a stop-time~~, the method comprising:

-receiving by a first network element from a second network element an open-ended reservation request for resources for an application or a group of applications;

-assigning a start-time and a stop-time for the open-ended reservation request, said stop-time being based upon the application or the group of applications;

-guaranteeing said resources between said start-time and said stop-time, said guaranteeing being performed in advance of when said resources are allocated such that said start-time is later than a current time; [[and]]

-allocating said resources to the application or the group of applications between said start-time and said stop-time; and

-keeping said resources for the application after said stop-time has expired if said application still needs resources, wherein the ~~resource manager~~ first network element is keeping a list of active reservations that have expired after said stop-time.

24. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 23, wherein all resource reservations are utilizing a common pool of resources.

25. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 23, wherein individual start-time and stop-time are set for each application by an application client.

26. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 23, wherein individual start-time and stop-time are set for each application by the ~~resource-manager~~ first network element.

27-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 23, wherein said stop-time is set to infinity.

30. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 23, wherein charging of said resources is based on ~~[[the]]~~ an amount of guaranteed resources.

31. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 23, wherein said resources are related to ~~[[the]]~~ a bandwidth.

32-33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) A ~~resource-manager-for-reserving-network-resources~~ network element within an IP network, wherein said ~~resource-manager~~ network element comprises:

means for reserving resources for an open-ended reservation for an application or a group of applications, the open-ended reservation being assigned within a time interval defined by a start-time and a stop-time, said start-time being later than a current time, said stop-time being dependent upon the application or the group of applications;

means for guaranteeing said resources between said start-time and said stop-time; ~~[[and]]~~

means for allocating said resources between said start-time and said stop-time; and

means for keeping said resources for the application after said stop-time has expired if said application still needs the ~~resources~~ resources, wherein said ~~resource-manager~~ network element comprises means for keeping a list of active reservations that have expired after said stop-time.

35. (Currently Amended) ~~Resource-manager~~ The network element according to claim 34, wherein all resource reservations are utilizing a common pool of resources.

36. (Currently Amended) ~~Resource-manager~~ The network element according to claim 34, ~~wherein said resource-manager comprises~~ further comprising means for allowing ~~[[the]]~~ each application ~~client~~ to set individual ~~start-time and stop-time~~ start-times and stop-times for said application.

37. (Currently Amended) ~~Resource-manager~~ The network element according to claim 34, ~~wherein said resource-manager comprises~~ further comprising means for setting an individual start-time and stop-time for each application.

38. (Currently Amended) ~~Resource-manager~~ The network element according to claim 34, ~~wherein said resource-manager comprises~~ further comprising means for setting said start-time to the current time.

39. (Currently Amended) ~~Resource-manager~~ The network element according to claim 38, ~~wherein said resource-manager comprises~~ further comprising means for setting said stop-time to the current time.

40. (Currently Amended) ~~Resource-manager~~ The network element according to claim 34, wherein said ~~resource-manager comprises~~ further comprising means for setting said stop-time to infinity.

41. (Currently Amended) ~~Resource-manager~~ The network element according to claim 34, wherein said ~~resource-manager comprises~~ further comprising means for basing the guaranteeing of said resources on an amount of guaranteed resources.

42. (Currently Amended) ~~Resource-manager~~ The network element according to claim 34, wherein said resources are related to ~~[[the]]~~ a bandwidth.

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Currently Amended) ~~Resource-manager~~ The network element according to claim 34, wherein said start-time comprises a time value, the time value being greater than a current time.